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MEMORIALS OF WILLIAM CRANCH BOND, DIRECTOR OF THE HARVARD COLLEGE OBSERVATORY, 1840-59, AND OF HIS SON, GEORGE PHILLIPS BOND, DIRECTOR OF THE HARVARD COLLEGE OBSERVATORY, 1859-65, BY EDWARD S. HOLDEN, DIRECTOR OF THE LICK OBSERVATORY. 8vo. 1897. PUBLISHED AT THE COST OF THE DAUGHTERS OF GEORGE BOND, AND SOLD BY C. A. MURDOCK & Co., 532 CLAY STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, AND BY LEMCKE & BÜCHNER, 812 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY.

No adequate biography of either of the BONDS is available. At the request of the daughters of GEORGE BOND, I have undertaken to arrange the manuscript material in their hands in an orderly form. The book will be printed and published as above. The contents are: Chapter I, Life of W. C. BOND, 1789-1859; II, Life of G. P. BOND, 1825-1865; III, Selections from the Diaries of GEORGE BOND; IV, Selections from the Correspondence of GEORGE BOND; V, Account of the Scientific Work of the BONDS; Appendixes, giving a complete list of their published writings; and Index of Proper Names.

The book will be well illustrated. It is hoped by the kindness of Professor E. C. PICKERING, Director of the Harvard College Observatory, to reproduce two fine steel engravings of the Great Comet of 1858 and of the nebula of *Orion*, from the plates of the *Annals* H. C. O. A small edition only will be issued. The price of a single copy, bound in cloth, including postage, will be two dollars. Orders may be sent to C. A. MURDOCK & Co., 532 Clay street, San Francisco, or to Messrs. LEMCKE & BÜCHNER, 812 Broadway, New York City.

EDWARD S. HOLDEN.

LICK OBSERVATORY, March 27, 1897.

THE REVERSING-LAYER OF THE SUN'S CORONA (TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE OF 1896, AUGUST 9).

A photograph of this eclipse, taken by Mr. SCHACKELTON, F. R. A. S., at Nova Zembla, shows the Sun's "reversing-layer" first observed by Professor YOUNG (visually) at the eclipse of 1870. The "reversing-layer" is, in a sense, the Sun's true atmosphere, and YOUNG's observation of 1870 seemed to show that it can hardly be more than 500 miles in thickness. Professor YOUNG's conclusions have been much called in question by

Professor LOCKYER, whose dissociation theory requires a deep solar atmosphere, with a considerable range of temperature between its upper and lower levels. Mr. SHACKELTON's photograph has been examined by Professor YOUNG, and fully bears out his conclusions. E. S. H.

GIFT OF MISS BRUCE TO THE OBSERVATORY OF PRAGUE.

"The Director of the Observatory of Prague, Professor L. WEINEK, has received from Miss CATHERINE W. BRUCE, the high-minded patroness and well-wisher of astronomy in America, the sum of 2439 florins (\$1000) for the publication of the large photographic Moon-Atlas begun by him in 1893."—*Prager Abendblatt*, March 3, 1897.

MEASURES OF *SIRIUS*.

Both of the following measures were made with the thirty-six-inch telescope, using a 520-power eye-piece. *Sirius* was a few minutes east of the meridian each night, and the atmospheric conditions were fair.

| Date. | <i>p.</i> | <i>s.</i> |
|----------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1897.203 | 184. ^o 9 | 3."98 |
| 1897.206 | 185. ^o 3 | 3."92 |

R. G. AITKEN.

March 16, 1897.

LATITUDE OF THE LICK OBSERVATORY.

The mean value of the normal* latitude, ϕ_0 , derived from observations with the meridian-circle in the interval between September, 1893, and June, 1896, is—

- 37° 20' 25''.66 from about 1400 observations of 86 Berliner Jahrbuch equatorial stars;
- 37° 20' 25''.47 from about 1000 observations of 45 Berliner Jahrbuch circumpolar stars; and
- 37° 20' 25''.85 from 160 observations of 22 Berliner Jahrbuch zenith stars.

The correction for bisection and various systematic errors of observation should be largely eliminated from the mean of cir-

* Corrected for CHANDLER's Variation.